

that we are tempted to refer his atrocity rather to his destiny than to his choice. I wonder whether an emotion like this, have not been experienced by each reader of Paradise Lost, relative to the Leader of the infernal spirits ; a proof, if such were the fact, of some insinuation of evil into the magnificent creation of the poet. In some of the high examples of ambition (the ambition which is a vice), we almost revere the force of mind which impelled them forward through the longest series of action, superior to doubt and fluctuation, and disdainful of ease, of pleasures, of opposition, and of danger. We bend in homage before the ambitious spirit which reached the true sublime in the reply of Pompey to his friends, who dissuaded him from hazarding his life on a tempestuous sea in order to be at Rome on an important occasion: " It is necessary for me to go, it is not necessary for me to live."\*

Revenge has produced wonderful examples of this unremitting constancy to a purpose. Zanga is a well-supported illustration. And you may have read of a real instance of a Spaniard, who, being injured by another inhabitant of the same town, resolved to destroy him; the other was apprised of this, and removed with the utmost secrecy, as he thought, to another town at a considerable distance, where however he had not been more than a day or two, before he found that his enemy also was there. He removed in the same manner to several parts of the kingdom, remote from each other; but in every place quickly perceived that his deadly pursuer was near him. At last he went to South America, where he had enjoyed his security but a very short time before his relentless pursuer came up with him, and accomplished his purpose.

You may recollect the mention in one of our conversations, of a young man who wasted in two or three years a large patrimony, in profligate revels with a number of worthless

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\* See Plutarch's " Lives, Pompey." It was at a time when Pompey had been entrusted with the care of providing and importing corn. He had gone in person into Sicily, Sardinia, and Africa, and had collected large quantities. " When he was on the point of re-embarking a violent wind sprung up, and the mariners made a difficulty of putting to sea, but he was the first to go on board, and he ordered them to weigh anchor with these decisive words, ' It is necessary to go, it is not necessary to live!' His success was answerable to his spirit and intrepidity."